



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/15354
12 August 1982

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 12 AUGUST 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
JORDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 12 August 1982 from the
Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you could circulate this letter as a document of the
Security Council.

(Signed) Hazem NUSEIBEH
Permanent Representative of Jordan
to the United Nations

Annex

Letter dated 12 August 1982 from the Permanent Observer of
the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations
addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am instructed by Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, to bring to your most immediate attention, relevant to Security Council resolutions 508 (1982) and 509 (1982), the grave Israeli aggression that has, since dawn today, 12 August 1982, turned West Beirut into a firing range for the Israeli air force, army and navy.

In nine continuous hours of air attacks on West Beirut, Israeli planes had inflicted an estimated 300 casualties in the 16 different residential quarters and Palestinian refugee camps in the bombing.

Israeli planes carried out more than 100 sorties - about 12 per hour - using phosphorous and fragmentation bombs, as well as 2,000 pound bombs and several types of rockets. The areas attacked included Verdun, Tallat al-Khayyat, Aisha Bakkar, Burj Abu Haidar, Barbour and a number of other heavily populated districts.

At 8.30 a.m. Beirut local time, the hellish scream of Israeli war planes filled the skies of Beirut as over 25 Israeli bombing runs had been carried out since dawn. The scope of the raids widened to include the areas of Ramlet al-Baida and the Arab University vicinity. As the Israeli planes dove low over the city and bombs tore into the heavily populated residential areas, the citizens ran for cover, crowding poorly equipped and ill-suited bomb shelters.

By 9.00 a.m., Israel had carried out over 30 bombing runs against the Palestinian refugee camps of Burj al Barajneh, Sabra and Shatila and Bir Hassan.

At 10.45 a.m., the Israeli campaign to annihilate what remains of Beirut's four Palestinian refugee camps was well into its fifth hour and escalating by the minute. Wave after wave of Israeli war planes struck hard, dropping phosphorous bombs to ensure the total destruction of the last refuge of Beirut's Palestinian citizens. In addition to the camps of Burj al-Barajneh, Sabra, Shatila and Mar Elias, the Beirut residential areas of Berbir, Ramlet al-Baida, Corniche al Mazraa and the southern suburbs were all subjected to insane Israeli bombardment.

At 12.00 noon, the sixth hour of the continuous Israeli air raids, over 400 buildings had been totally destroyed, crumbling over the occupants.

The casualty figure is expected to rise. Most of the victims are believed buried under the rubble of homes and trapped in shelters. Civil defense and ambulance teams rescue efforts are severely hindered because of the intensity and continuity of the air raids.

/...

S/15354
English
Annex
Page 2

Sir, the conscience of mankind cannot lay silent to this horrendous crime against the Palestinian and Lebanese populations of Beirut. With the utmost urgency, we urge the Security Council to assume its responsibilities.

(Signed) Zehdi Labib TERZI
Permanent Observer
